

AUG 24 2006

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<b>REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL</b>  Address to: MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	Application Number	09/976,443
	Filing date	October 12, 2001
	First Named Inventor	Ronald E. Sloan
	Art Unit	3628
	Examiner Name	T.M. Harbeck
	Attorney Docket Number	60021-376002

**This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.**

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

**1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114**

- a. ☒ Previously submitted
- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on July 18, 2006.  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☐ Amendment(s)/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☒ Other Petition for One Month Extension.

**2. Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103© for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(l) required)
- b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.


**3. Fees**

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901.
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) – Large entity fee \$790.
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) .
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

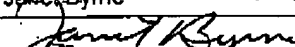
**WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Rudolph P. Hofmann	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	38,187
Signature		Date:	August 24, 2006

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Janet Byrne	Date:	August 24, 2006
Signature			

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